THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Various suggestions regarding fiscal matters and procedures connected with NRI investment are considered by a Consultative Committee on NRI matters, constituted by the Ministry of Finance. Suitable changes in the Policy/procedures for NRI investment are incorporated wherever necessary.

For import of technology, Government have delegated more powers to the Adiminstrative Ministries to consider and accord approvals in respect of foreign collaboration proposals submitted by the entrepreneurs. Government have also decided to allow higher rate of royalty and foreign equity in Indian companies where the technology is sophisticated and closely guarded. These measures also apply to the NRI cases.

The initiative for selection of technology and tie-up with a foreign collaborator is left to the entrepreneurs. It is, therefore, not possible to assess the direct response fo the foreign companies in these cases.

Privatisation of public enterprises

94. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the International Chamber of Commerce Congress held in New Delhi recently have favoured privatisation of public enterprises as a means of economic expansion in our country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such a move will generate more employment potential; and

(c) if so, what are the broad deliberations of the ICCC and the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) One of the conclusions made at the 29th Congress of International Chamber of Commerce held at New Delhi, in February, 1987 was that "the world-wide trend of privatising State owned companies and contracting out State or Municipal services should be encouraged since it can add to the competitive efficiency of national economies, improve the long term finances of Government and provide new business opportunities for the private sector".

The roles assigned to private and public sectors in the industrial development of the country are laid down in the Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956 which continues to provide the basic frame-work of the Government's industrial policy.

Shortage of LPG Cylinders

95. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the supply of filled LPG cylinders is delayed by dealers by 2-3 days;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any shortage of these cylniders and in case there is no shortage of LPG cylinders, what are the reasons for which M/s. Prem Nath Motors, an Indian Oil Corporation LPG dealer is not able to supply LPG cylinders, the same day to the consumers; and

(d) by when the situation is likely to be improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) While LPG distributors are under instructions to supply refills within 24 hours of the booking, supplies are at times made with delay for reasons like transportation bottlenecks, labour problems, civil disturbances etc.

(c) and (d) Supply of LPG refills by M|s. Prem Nath Motors, New Delhi is normal at present; however, in the recent past the distributors had some backlog due to labour problem, traffic restrictions, strike by lorry owners etc.

Thermal Power Projects

96. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of thermal power projects cleared State-wise by Central Government during the last three years, what are the details about the capacity generation, amount investment and whether all are in public sector or any one in private sector;

(b) the number of the above sanctioned projects which are gas based and coal based separately and the quantity of gas and coal allotted to them;

(c) what is the all India average cost per unit production of thermal and hydro electric power and whether there are any plans to bring down the cost per unit;

(d) what are the factors responsible for transmission loss and whether theft is one of the vital factors; and

(e) what is the latest available plant load factor percentage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The desired information relating to the thermal power projects approved by Government during the last three years is given in the Statement annexed. [*See* Appendix CXLII, Annexure No. 3]

(c) The All India average cost, per unit of production of thermal and hydro-electric power for the year 1984-85, in respect of 15 major State Electricity Boards, is 46.98 paise and 8.14 paise respectively. Guidelines have been issued to the State Electricity Boards for improving operational efficiency and productivity. A comprehensive renovation and modernisation programme has been sanctioned to cover 34 thermal stations with a Central outlay of Rs. 500 crores. This is expected to result in additional generation and reduction in consupmption of coal and oil. A Committee has also been set up to make recommendations on formulation of a programme for renovation and modernization of hydro-electric power stations.

(d) The factors responsible for transmission and distribution losses include technical aspects, defective metres, theft and pilferage of energy.

(e) The All India plant load factor of thermal power stations in the country for the year 1986-87 is 53.2 per cent.

Contract by Neyveli Lignite Corporation

97. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited has paid huge amount of advance sums towards the deal with M|s. M.A.N. of West Germany and WMI during the current year 1987;

(b) if so, what are the details of amounts remitted to West Germany;

(c) what is the nature of guarantee provided to NLC by the said firm in West Germany; and

(d) what are the details of the contract between the Parties?